

Worksession

Agenda Item #	3
Meeting Date	22 February 2005
Prepared By	Ivy Thompson, CD Specialist Sara Anne Daines, HCD Director
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	Carroll Avenue sidewalk public art recommendation - Adrianna Baler Proposal
Background	<p>The proposed public art project, included in the streetscape improvements planned for Carroll Avenue, is to be contained within a 6-inch border along the sidewalk between Columbia Avenue and Philadelphia Avenue. The first RFP for this project was issued in May 2004. The two favored proposals were eventually eliminated from consideration. One was withdrawn at the request of the artist. The other was eliminated from consideration because of long-term maintenance concerns. A second RFP was issued in October 2004.</p> <p>Submissions have been evaluated by a subcommittee composed of members of the Arts and Humanities Commission and a representative of the Historic Preservation Commission. The subcommittee's evaluation considered the artistic merit of the individual proposals, the durability of materials to be used, the level of maintenance required, and the ability of the artist to complete the project. Input from the City Engineer and others was solicited. Subcommittee members interviewed the artists and followed up with each as the review progressed. Prototypes of the artwork were solicited. Following this intensive review, two projects were selected as finalists by the subcommittee. The first was submitted by Adrianna Baler, the second by John Hume of Sligo Creek Tile Company.</p> <p>In evaluating the two proposals, the subcommittee considered the following criteria in its review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer creative solutions exhibiting artistic merit and craftsmanship • Showcase local artists who have a track record with the materials. • Are appropriate for a historic district. • Work well at a pedestrian scale • Appear to meet construction and maintenance criteria. • Can be completed within the approved budget <p>Both proposals were felt to satisfy the requirements of the Request for Proposals and to be appropriate for installation along Carroll Avenue.</p> <p>Detailed information on the two proposals was posted on the City's website with the community provided an opportunity to submit their comments by email. The prototypes were displayed and comment sheets provided, at the Municipal Building (February 3-15) and at the Farmers' Market (February 6). Notice of the opportunity</p>

Background continued	<p>to view the proposals and comment was posted on the City notice board, published in the Gazette and Takoma Voice, and emailed to the residents along Carroll Avenue and to all neighborhood associations, and to the Old Takoma Business Association. An article on the proposed project highlighting the two finalists was included in the February 2 edition of the Gazette. A total of 68 comments were received.</p> <p>The two proposals were forwarded to the Arts and Humanities Commission for consideration on February 15. Unfortunately, Mr. Hume withdrew his proposal, indicating he was not prepared to purchase the required liability insurance. Subcommittee members, noting both projects had been thoroughly reviewed, encouraged the Commission to consider the Baler proposal. The Commission voted to forward the Baler proposal to the Council for consideration.</p> <p>Members of the Arts and Humanities Commission will be present at the worksession to present the recommendation of the AHC and to answer any questions.</p>
Policy	<p>The Arts and Humanities Commission serves in an official advisory role to the City Council on all matters related to the arts. The Commission is responsible for reviewing and advising the Council on the aesthetic aspects of all works of art or designs or public monuments accepted or commissioned by the City.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ordinance #2003-01 Establishing the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission</i></p>
Fiscal Impact	<p>The contract is for \$10,000. The funds were allocated from a State Grant previously awarded to the City for street enhancements along Carroll Avenue. No City funds are to be spent on the project.</p>
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of Proposal - Adrianna Baler
Recommendation	<p>To review and comment on the Arts and Humanities Commission's recommendation to install the artwork proposed by Adrianna Baler. Assuming Council's acceptance of the recommendation, an ordinance will be placed on the February 28 meeting agenda.</p>
Special Consideration	<p>The installation of this project must be coordinated with the Carroll Avenue Street improvements, which are scheduled to begin in mid-April. The artist needs a minimum of eight weeks to begin fabrication of materials.</p>

Adriana Baler

www.adrianabaler.com

Materials:

Porcelain clay catalog #213 from Standard Supply Company. The colors of the pavers work does not fade with sunlight or under outdoor conditions since it is essentially a vitreous surface strongly bonded to a clay body.

The product has been tested by repeated freeze/thaw/boiling cycles to ensure they can withstand multiple and extreme changes in temperature and humidity.

Artist's Statement:

For this project I envision a continuous curvilinear trail of circular colored porcelain pavers of different diameters. The concept offers the following important features:

- The path of continuous circles can either be tightly interwoven or scattered so that the overall feeling can be fine tuned to the nature of surrounding objects (e.g. trees, buildings, benches, planters, driveways, etc.) and future changes contemplated in the master plan.
- The pavers are colored with subtle glazes which can be arranged in many different ways. One possible scenario could call for transitional path areas, where colors mutate through grades of blue to turquoise to green to yellow and finally orange and red.
- The art work is original, unique, handmade and site specific.